



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)
www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Sunday before the Holy Cross

Sts. Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the First/Πλ. του Πρώτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, September 10</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Hierarchal Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before the Holy Cross Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 5:00pm Parish Movie Outing
<i>Wednesday, September 13</i>	6:00pm Great Vespers for the Elevation of the Holy Cross 7:00pm Refreshments in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, September 14</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Elevation of the Holy Cross (our parish's name day!) Procession of the Holy Cross at the end of the Liturgy
<i>Saturday, September 16</i>	3:00pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House (and by Zoom) 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, September 17</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after the Holy Cross Blessing for the Beginning of Sunday School Memorial Service for departed family members of the Saratsiotis Family at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
<i>Tuesday, September 19</i>	7:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting
<i>Wednesday, September 20</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Parish House
<i>Sunday, September 24</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 1 st Sunday of Luke and the Feast of St. Thekla the Great Martyr Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Bible Study (Adults)
<i>Tuesday, September 26</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, September 27</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Parish House

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (9/17) Aleca Hortman, Isabelle Saratsiotis; (9/24) George Saratsiotis, Bryan Gordy
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (9/17) Natalia Saratsiotis; (9/24) Melanie Moye; (10/1) Gray Yates
Upcoming Ushers: (9/13) Tassie C.; (9/14) Cristina L.; (9/16) OPEN; (9/17) Cheryl+Eric S.; (9/20) OPEN
Upcoming Video Operators: (9/13) Cristina L.; (9/14) Joanna P.; (9/17) David Z.; (9/24) Natalia S.; (10/1) Natalia S
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (9/17) Georgia Saratsiotis; (9/24) Tassie Cantrell; (10/1) Danai Esquivel

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

To our Visitors and Guests: We extend a **warm welcome** to all worshiping with us today! While Holy Communion, following ancient practice, is reserved for Orthodox Christians, non-Orthodox may receive the blessed bread (antidoron) offered at the conclusion of the service.

Please join us in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy for Coffee Fellowship!

Epistle Reading

*Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ
εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.*

*Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκραῶμαι, ὁ
Θεός μου.*

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*Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν
γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ.
Ὅσοι θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν
σαρκί, οὗτοι ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς
περιτέμνεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ
σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται·
οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτεμνόμενοι αὐτοὶ
νόμον φυλάσσουσιν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν
ὑμᾶς περιτέμνεσθαι ἵνα ἐν τῇ
ὑμετέρᾳ σαρκὶ καυχῶσινται. Ἐμοὶ
δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ
σταυρῷ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος
ἐσταύρωται καὶ γὰρ τῷ κόσμῳ. Ἐν γὰρ
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι
ισχύει οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ
κτίσις. Καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ
στοιχῆσουσιν, εἰρήνη ἐπ' αὐτοὺς καὶ
ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ Θεοῦ.
Τοῦ λοιποῦ κόπους μοι μηδεὶς
παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ
Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου
βαστάζω. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος
ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί· ἀμήν.

*O Lord, save Your people, and
bless Your inheritance.*

*Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my
God. (Psalm 27)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter
to the Galatians. (6:11-18)*

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Brethren, see with what large
letters I am writing to you with my
own hand. It is those who want to
make a good showing in the flesh
that would compel you to be
circumcised, and only in order that
they may not be persecuted for the
cross of Christ. For even those who
receive circumcision do not
themselves keep the law, but they
desire to have you circumcised that
they may glory in your flesh. But
far be it from me to glory except in
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been
crucified to me, and I to the world.
For neither circumcision counts
for anything, nor uncircumcision,
but a new creation. Peace and
mercy be upon all who walk by this
rule, upon the Israel of God.
Henceforth let no man trouble me;
for I bear on my body the marks of
Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit,
brethren. Amen.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (3:13-17)

Sunday before the Holy Cross

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· καὶ οὐδεὶς
ἀναβέβηκεν εἰς τὸν
οὐρανὸν εἰ μὴ ὁ ἐκ τοῦ
οὐρανοῦ καταβάς, ὁ υἱὸς
τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὁ ὢν ἐν τῷ
οὐρανῷ. καὶ καθὼς
Μωϋσῆς ὕψωσε τὸν ὄφιν
ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, οὕτως
ὑψωθῆναι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ
ἀνθρώπου, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ
πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ
ἀπόληται ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν
αἰώνιον. Οὕτω γὰρ
ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν
κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν
αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ
ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ
πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ
ἀπόληται ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν
αἰώνιον. οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν
ὁ Θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ εἰς
τὸν κόσμον ἵνα κρίνη τὸν
κόσμον, ἀλλ' ἵνα σωθῆ ὁ
κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ.

The Lord said, "No one
has ascended into
heaven but he who
descended from
heaven, the Son of
man. And as Moses
lifted up the serpent in
the wilderness, so must
the Son of man be lifted
up, that whoever
believes in him may
have eternal life. For
God so loved the world
that he gave his only
Son, that whoever
believes in him should
not perish but have
eternal life. For God
sent the Son into the
world, not to condemn
the world, but that the
world might be saved
through him."

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of September 10, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Sarah Drakopoulos

Video: Gray Y./David N. Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Beth Zoumberis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Parish Council

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ After-Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

The Nativity (Birth) of the Theotokos was celebrated on September 8. We continue to celebrate this feast through its Leave-taking on September 12.

+ The Holy Women Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora (+304)

These Martyrs, sisters according to the flesh, were from Bithynia. They lived in virginity on a mountain near the Pythian hot springs of Bithynia, devoting themselves to asceticism and prayer. Betrayed to the local governor, Fronto, they were subjected to frightful tortures, and so gave up their holy souls into the hands of God. They contested for the Faith during the reign of Maximian, in the year 304.

+ The Holy Martyr Barypsabas in Dalmatia (+2nd Century)

+ The Devout Pulcheria the Empress (+453)

+ The Holy Apostles Apelles, Luke (of Laodicea in Syria, not the Evangelist), and Clement of the Seventy (+1st Century)

+ The Holy Woman Martyr Ia of Persia (+363)

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Theodard of Maastricht (+670)

+ Our Father among the Saints, Autbert, Bishop of Avranches and founder of the monastery of Mont-St-Michel in Normandy (+709)

+ The Venerable Isaiah, founder of the Kykkos Monastery in Cyprus (+12th Century)

Through the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Variable Hymns of the Day in the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Hymn of the Nativity of the Theotokos (H γέννησις σου Θεοτόκε, Fourth Mode):

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Weekly Resurrectional Hymn)

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Τὸν συνάναρχόν Λόγον, Plagal of the First Mode):

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection. (Sung after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, First Mode):

Save, O Lord, save your people and bless Your inheritance. Give victory to those who battle evil and protect us all by Your Holy Cross.

- The Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Ἰωακείμ και Ἄννα, Fourth Mode):

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (9/10—No Fasting): Mark 16:9-20; Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17

Monday (9/11—No Fasting): Galatians 2:11-16; John 12:19-36

Tuesday (9/12—No Fasting): Galatians 2:21, 3:1-7; John 11:47-54

Wednesday (9/13—Wine+Oil): Hebrews 3:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Thursday (9/14—Elevation of the Holy Cross—Strict Fast): John 12:28-36; I Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

Friday (9/15—Strict Fast): Colossians 1:24-29, 2:1; Matthew 10:16-22

Saturday (9/16—No Fasting): II Corinthians 6:1-10; John 8:21-30

Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Evthalia, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Jill, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelianos, Denna, Brian

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Marty (+August 4), Rose (+August 6), James (+August 14), Dorothy (+August 20), Mounir (+August 23), Sedky (+August 25), Kim (+September 5), Jamal (+September 6)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Maggie B., Hannah K.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahiotes, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Bobbie, Chad, CJ, Ethan, Jace, Jessica, Nate and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

Fr. Thomas Hopko (+2015), speaks to us about the Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, whose birth we continue to celebrate: "She is, in every aspect of her life, as Father Alexander Schmemmann so often said, not the great exception, but rather the great example. From her conception to her dormition, that is, her true and real death, she shows how all people must be when they are sanctified by the Holy Spirit as servants of God and imitators of Christ."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
September 11: Evelyn Zoumberis Neault
September 13: Cornelius Chiorescu, Arti Passias, Aristides Paul Vrahiotes
September 15: Nikitis Zoumberis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!
September 10: Dominic Economopoulos
September 12: Paula Cacavias
September 13: Mike Nicholas, Greg Spicer
September 14: Maggie Bennette
September 15: Christian Morris

Anniversaries—Congratulations!
None in the Records

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **CROSS DIVE:** Thank you to the Committee, all who volunteered, and all who attended the Cross Dive yesterday! We also give thanks to God and welcome Metropolitan Alexios and Fr. Christos Mars of the Annunciation Cathedral who are with us this morning to celebrate the Divine Services!

* **Movie Outing:** My Big Fat Greek Wedding 3 at AmStar Theater (5996 Zebulon Road, Macon) at 5:00pm. If you have not reserved a ticket, feel free to meet us there and purchase your own. We are planning on sitting in rows E, F, and G.

* **Philo托chos Meeting** this coming Saturday, September 16 at 3:00pm in the Parish House. This is for all members and those who would like to be members. Zoom link will be available, as well.

* **Youth:** Sunday School kicks off next Sunday (9/17) with a blessing of the waters and our first class! Students and teachers will receive communion first, then wait in the narthex to walk to the house together with their class.

* **GREEK FESTIVAL:** This year's festival is Friday through Sunday, October 20-22. Please save the date for October 19 for set-up—lots of help is always needed! Please refer to the bulletin email for more festival info and links. Preparation dates: Dolmades (September 30 at 8:30am) and Pastry packaging (October 13 at 8am). We are asking each family to sell 5 books for the Raffle Drawing. Please see Natalia to get your tickets if you have not already. If you know of someone who would like to volunteer to work at the festival, please direct them to our festival webpage or contact Cheryl Schwartzkopf.

* **Greek School** will be starting on Sunday, September 24 (youth class will begin on September 24 and adult class on October 1). Please see the e-mail that was sent this week by Maria Bronisevsky to register and reserve your book for the class.

* **Shut-Ins:** If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.